

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3492

To amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for interfering with commerce by blocking public roads.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for interfering with commerce by blocking public roads.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe and Open Streets  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CRIME OF INTERFERENCE WITH COMMERCE BY**  
7 **BLOCKING PUBLIC ROADS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1951 of title 18, United  
9 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as  
2 subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(b) INTERFERENCE WITH COMMERCE BY BLOCK-  
6 ING PUBLIC ROADS.—

7 “(1) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful to, in any  
8 way or degree, purposely obstruct, delay, or affect  
9 commerce or the movement of any article or com-  
10 modity in commerce by blocking a public road or  
11 highway, or to attempt or conspire so to do.

12 “(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates para-  
13 graph (1) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned  
14 not more than 5 years, or both.”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of section  
17 1951 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by  
18 striking “**by threats or violence**”.

19 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections  
20 for chapter 95 of title 18, United States Code, is  
21 amended by striking the item relating to section  
22 1951 and inserting the following:

“1951. Interference with commerce.”.

23 (3) CROSS REFERENCES.—

24 (A) TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Sec-  
25 tion 8332(o)(2)(B)(xx) of title 5, United States

1 Code, is amended by striking “by threats of vio-  
2 lence”.

3 (B) TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.—  
4 Part I of title 18, United States Code, is  
5 amended—

6 (i) in section 1961(1), by striking “,  
7 robbery, or extortion”; and

8 (ii) in section 2516(1)(c), by striking  
9 “by threats or violence”.

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